

providing an instrument comprising first and second shafts joined by an articulating link, wherein the first shaft is attached to a first member having at least one suction port therein, and said second shaft is attached to a second member having at least one suction port therein;

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contacting the members with the surface of the heart;

applying a negative pressure to said suction ports, thereby attaching the members to the surface of the heart; and

manipulating the interlinked shafts through the articulating link such that the members move with respect to one another, while each member maintains attachment to the surface of the heart.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of attaching the instrument to a stable support.

40. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of performing a coronary artery bypass graft procedure on the heart.